THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work for development of Surat airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.30 crores has already commenced and is scheduled for completion by December 2006.

(c) Air Deccan had started operations on 19th July 2004 and subsequently suspended because of heavy water logging during monsoon. It re-commenced operation on 26th October 2004 which was again suspended since 21st July 2005.

(d) As mentioned at (b) above.

Night landing facility at Jabalpur Airport

†2114. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have provided the land for Jabalpur airport free of cost;

(b) whether the development works like construction of Terminal building, night landing facility etc. have been completed after the acqisition of the land; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. State Government of Madhya Pradesh has given 30 crores of land at Jabalpur Airport free of cost to Airports Authority of india (AAI).

(b) and (c) AAI has completed a new Terminal Building suitable for 200 passengers at a cost of Rs. 7.46 crores. Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR), distance Measuring Equipment (DME) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) at both ends of runway have also been provided at a cost of Rs. 1.80 crores. Night Landing Facilities have not been planned due to restrictions imposed by Ministry of Defence on account of the close proximity of the Ordnance Depot.

Improvement in Air Services to US

2115. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether spurred by the far-reaching Civil Aviation pact signed recently between India and US, Continental airlines is set to start daily

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.